

**HIGHER EDUCATION CHALLENGE GRANTS  
PROGRAM SUMMARY -- FY 2003  
Posted: August 2003**

**Higher Education Programs  
Science and Education Resources Development  
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)  
U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Launched in 1990, the Higher Education Challenge Grants program is administered by the USDA Office of Higher Education Programs under the authority contained in section 1417(b)(1) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(1)). This program is designed to stimulate and enable colleges and universities to provide the quality of education necessary to produce baccalaureate or higher degree level graduates capable of strengthening the Nation's food and agricultural scientific and professional workforce.

Projects supported by the Higher Education Challenge Grants Program should: (1) address a State, regional, national, or international educational need; (2) involve a creative or nontraditional approach toward addressing that need that can serve as a model to others; (3) encourage and facilitate better working relationships in the university science and education community, as well as between universities and the private sector, to enhance program quality and supplement available resources; and (4) result in benefits that will likely transcend the project duration and USDA support.

Funded projects should address one or more of the following targeted areas: (a) curricula design and materials development; (b) faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching; (c) instructional delivery systems, or (d) student experiential learning.

Applications may be submitted by (a) U.S. public or private nonprofit colleges and universities offering a baccalaureate or first professional degree in at least one discipline or area of the food and agricultural sciences; (b) land-grant colleges and universities (including land grant institutions in the Insular Areas); (c) colleges and universities having significant minority enrollments and a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food and agricultural sciences; and (d) other colleges and universities having a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food and agricultural sciences.

For the FY 2003 award cycle, \$ 4,583,431 was available for project grant awards after subtracting administrative costs.

A total of 46 different institutions from 40 states submitted 137 proposals requesting \$19,012,103. In April 2003, a 27-member peer review panel evaluated these proposals. The peer panel included faculty and administrators from land grant and non-land grant colleges and universities and practitioners from the food and agricultural sciences community.

Funds were available to support a total of 33 awards from 26 institutions in 26 states. Ten projects were formal Joint Project Proposals requiring partnerships between two or more institutions.

The following two tables summarize this year's Higher Education Challenge Grants program competition:

<b>Table 1. FUNDS REQUESTED/AWARDED BY EMPHASIS AREAS FY 2003 Higher Education Challenge Grants</b>				
<b>TARGET ACADEMIC EMPHASIS AREAS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PROPOSALS</b>		<b>AMOUNT OF FUNDS</b>	
	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Awarded</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Awarded*</b>
General (G)	33	11	\$5,119,013	\$1,396,669
Agribusiness Mngt. and Marketing (M)	8	1	\$668,459	\$61,260
Agricultural/Bio. Engineering (E)	3	2	\$229,990	\$199,990
Agricultural Social Sciences (S)	8	0	\$1,199,910	0
Interntional (I)	7	1	\$936,752	\$99,943
Animal Sciences (A)	11	3	\$1,739,068	\$402,353
Plant Sciences (P)	6	2	\$752,438	\$344,287
Entomology (Animal) (J)	2	0	\$341,967	0
Soil Science (D)	2	0	\$188,780	0
Conservation (Including Nat. Res. (C)	12	2	\$1,628,451	\$406,864
Food Sciences (F)	6	1	\$1,022,719	\$250,000
Environmental Sciences (L)	5	1	\$613,190	\$250,000
Family/Consumer Sciences (H)	7	3	\$981,571	\$199,888
Nutrition (N)	5	1	\$638,999	\$96,756
Related Biological Sciences (B)	3	1	\$599,772	\$249,970
Veterinary Medicine (V)	16	3	\$1,895,968	\$397,679
Water Resources/Sciences (W)	2	1	\$327,703	\$227,772
Other (O)	1	0	\$127,353	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>\$19,012,103</b>	<b>\$4,583,431</b>

\* Not all projects request the maximum funds allowed per institution under this grant (\$100,000 - Regular Proposals, or \$250,000 - Joint Project Proposals). These amounts represent the total Federal dollars awarded to each lead institution, including the funds that will be subcontracted to collaborating institutions for joint projects. With fund transfer restrictions taken into account, no single institution will receive more than \$100,000 (Regular proposals) or \$125,000 (Joint proposals). All funded projects in this grants program require 1:1 non-Federal matching funds. Matching funds are not reflected in these Federal award amounts.

**Table 2. FUNDED PROJECT INFORMATION and DESCRIPTIONS**  
**FY 2003 Higher Education Challenge Grants**

<b>PROPOSAL NUMBER</b>	2003-03844	<b>AWARD NUMBER</b>	2003-38411-13479
<b>INSTITUTION</b>	Auburn University	<b>STATE</b>	AL
<b>PROJECT DIRECTOR</b>	Patricia Curtis		
<b>FUNDS AWARDED*</b>	\$ 99814	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>	8/31/2005
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	The Virtual Chicken: Part-1 The Female Reproductive Tract		
<b>CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #</b>	<a href="#">196569</a>		

<b>PROPOSAL NUMBER</b>	2003-03824	<b>AWARD NUMBER</b>	2003-38411-13417
<b>INSTITUTION</b>	University of Arkansas Board of Trustees	<b>STATE</b>	AR
<b>PROJECT DIRECTOR</b>	Casey M. Owens		
<b>FUNDS AWARDED*</b>	\$ 249956	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>	8/31/2006
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Collaborative Development of a Multi-Media, Modular Poultry Processing, Products, and Food Safety Curriculum		
<b>CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #</b>	<a href="#">196207</a>		

<b>PROPOSAL NUMBER</b>	2003-03866	<b>AWARD NUMBER</b>	2003-38411-13446
<b>INSTITUTION</b>	University of Florida - IFAS	<b>STATE</b>	FL
<b>PROJECT DIRECTOR</b>	Michael Bannister		
<b>FUNDS AWARDED*</b>	\$ 241928	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>	8/31/2006
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Developing Agroforestry and Natural Resource Distance Education: Meeting the Needs of the Changing Southeastern US		
<b>CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #</b>	<a href="#">196495</a>		

<b>PROPOSAL NUMBER</b>	2003-03867	<b>AWARD NUMBER</b>	2003-38411-13431
<b>INSTITUTION</b>	University of Florida - IFAS	<b>STATE</b>	FL
<b>PROJECT DIRECTOR</b>	Shibu Jose		
<b>FUNDS AWARDED*</b>	\$ 164936	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>	7/31/2006
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Restoration Ecology of Longleaf Pine Ecosystems: Developing an Interdisciplinary Distance Education Course		
<b>CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #</b>	<a href="#">196197</a>		

<b>PROPOSAL NUMBER</b>	2003-03856	<b>AWARD NUMBER</b>	2003-38411-13510
<b>INSTITUTION</b>	University of Georgia	<b>STATE</b>	GA
<b>PROJECT DIRECTOR</b>	James N. Moore		
<b>FUNDS AWARDED*</b>	\$ 99996	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>	8/31/2005
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Improving the Educational Impact of 3-D Animations of Signal Transduction Mechanisms with Basic Concepts Modules		
<b>CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #</b>	<a href="#">196201</a>		

<b>PROPOSAL NUMBER</b>	2003-03858	<b>AWARD NUMBER</b>	2003-38411-13419
<b>INSTITUTION</b>	Iowa State University	<b>STATE</b>	IA
<b>PROJECT DIRECTOR</b>	Tom Polito		
<b>FUNDS AWARDED*</b>	\$ 96724	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>	8/31/2006
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Integrating an Entire Semester to Make Connections for Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration and Communication		
<b>CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #</b>	<a href="#">196247</a>		

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03812	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13447	
INSTITUTION	The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois		STATE	IL
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Neil Knobloch			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 100000	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	A National Assessment of Learner Centered Approaches to Teaching in Colleges of Agriculture			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196205</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-04020	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13501	
INSTITUTION	Purdue University		STATE	IN
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Heidi A. Diefes-Dux			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 100000	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Nanotechnology Interdisciplinary Educational Experiences for Undergraduates in Food and Agricultural Sciences			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196575</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03890	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13488	
INSTITUTION	Purdue University		STATE	IN
PROJECT DIRECTOR	William D. Evers			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 96756	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	Can Computer-Assisted Instruction Enhance Communication Skills of Nutrition Professionals Who Educate Consumers About Healthy Food Choices			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196705</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-04019	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13430	
INSTITUTION	Kansas State University		STATE	KS
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Melody L.A. LeHew			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 100000	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	Developing Leaders for the Textile and Apparel Industry: Infusing Global Citizenship into the Undergraduate Curriculum			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196211</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03873	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13448	
INSTITUTION	Kansas State University		STATE	KS
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Raymond R. R. Rowland			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 97683	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	Student Experiential Learning in Food Animal Infectious Diseases			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196227</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03817	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13418	
INSTITUTION	Louisiana State University in Shreveport	STATE	LA	
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Dalton R. Gossett			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 250000	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Experiential Learning via Research in the Red River Basin (Joint Project)			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196538</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03810	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13464	
INSTITUTION	Michigan State University		STATE	MI
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Adroaldo Jose Zanella			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 100000	EXPIRATION DATE	2/14/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Interactive Animal Welfare Assessment Course			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196399</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03820	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13424	
INSTITUTION	Michigan State University		STATE	MI
PROJECT DIRECTOR	John A. Biernbaum			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 100000	EXPIRATION DATE	8/14/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Building Curriculum Around a Student Operated, Year-Round Community Farm			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196228</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03875	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13478	
INSTITUTION	Regents of The University of Minnesota		STATE	MN
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Mitchell S. Abrahamsen			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 100000	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Research Training of Veterinary Students in Microbial and Animal Health Genomics			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196592</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-04021	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13432	
INSTITUTION	University of Missouri - Columbia		STATE	MO
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Jana M. Hawley			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 99420	EXPIRATION DATE	7/31/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Textile Products Recycling: Curriculum Design and Instructional Delivery System			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196249</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03842	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13494	
INSTITUTION	University of Missouri - Columbia	STATE	MO	
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Sharyn K. Freyermuth			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 249970	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Genomics-Based Biotechnology Education			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196589</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03849	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13423	
INSTITUTION	Montana State University		STATE	MT
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Martin J. Frick			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 249465	EXPIRATION DATE	8/14/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Transitioning to Excellence in Agricultural and Natural Resource Baccalaureate Education			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196229</a>			



PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03847	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13451	
INSTITUTION	North Carolina State University		STATE	NC
PROJECT DIRECTOR	H. M. Linker			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 100000	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	A National Model for Agroecology Instruction			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196195</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-04009	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13429	
INSTITUTION	Rutgers University New Brunswick		STATE	NJ
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Harold D. Hafs			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 202539	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	Digital Image Galleries to Improve Teaching Animal Science			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196208</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-04029	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13436	
INSTITUTION	Cornell University		STATE	NY
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Joe M. Regenstein			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 250000	EXPIRATION DATE	7/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	Visiting Food Plants via the Internet (Virtual Field Trips)			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196226</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-04010	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13462	
INSTITUTION	Cornell University		STATE	NY
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Kathleen M Quinlan			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 100000	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Preparing Future Veterinarians for Careers in Food Animal Medicine, Food Safety and Veterinary Public Health			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196401</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03804	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13441	
INSTITUTION	The Ohio State University Research Foundation		STATE	OH
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Jay F. Martin			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 99999	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	Course Enhancement and Graduate Research to Develop Ecological Methods for Treating Animal Waste			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196200</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03891	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13463	
INSTITUTION	The Pennsylvania State University		STATE	PA
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Joseph M. Irudayaraj			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 99990	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Nanoscale Education for Agriculture and Food Based Curricula			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196231</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03893	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13477	
INSTITUTION	University of Rhode Island		STATE	RI
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Catherine English			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 100000	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Transparency in Learning: Web-Based Roadmaps for Achieving Expected Student Outcomes in the Food and Agricultural Sciences			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196196</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03860	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13442	
INSTITUTION	Clemson University	STATE	SC	
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Stephen E. Miller			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 61260	EXPIRATION DATE	1/31/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Compentencies of Entry-Level College Graduate Employees in Agribusiness			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196304</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-04025	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13426	
INSTITUTION	South Dakota State University		STATE	SD
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Timothy J. Nichols			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 98881	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2005	
PROJECT TITLE	Cohort Graduate Program for Tribal College Faculty and Agriculture/Food Systems Professionals			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196133</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03831	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13427	
INSTITUTION	The University of Tennessee		STATE	TN
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Laura D. Jolly			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 99888	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	Service Management for the 21st Century: Leveraging Technology to Improve Critical Thinking Skills			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196537</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03881	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13493	
INSTITUTION	Texas Agricultural Experiment Station		STATE	TX
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Richard T. Woodward			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 227772	EXPIRATION DATE	7/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	Using the Internet to Teach Market-Based Policies for Water Quality Management: NutrientNet.edu			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196588</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03814	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13452	
INSTITUTION	Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State Univ.	STATE	VA	
PROJECT DIRECTOR	James A. Parkhurst			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 99831	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	Novel Educational Strategies to Assess and Improve Critical Thinking Skills in Natural Resources Undergraduates			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196212</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03869	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13466	
INSTITUTION	Univ. of Vermont and State Agricultural College		STATE	VT
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Milton E. Tignor, Jr.			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 247563	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	Multimedia Instrument for Worldwide Greenhouse Education			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196198</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-03819	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13425	
INSTITUTION	University of Wisconsin		STATE	WI
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Stephen C. Ridley			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 99117	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	UWRF Research Internship Program			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196202</a>			

PROPOSAL NUMBER	2003-04006	AWARD NUMBER	2003-38411-13465	
INSTITUTION	University of Wisconsin, Madison	STATE	WI	
PROJECT DIRECTOR	Michel A. Wattiaux			
FUNDS AWARDED*	\$ 99943	EXPIRATION DATE	8/31/2006	
PROJECT TITLE	A Curriculum to Link Experiential Learning with Information Technology to Enhance Educational Quality and International Competitiveness			
CSREES WEB DATABASE (CRIS) #	<a href="#">196230</a>			